

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 576  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the Nashville Banner.

WHEREAS, beginning in 1876, the Nashville Banner provided to Nashville and Middle Tennessee a strong and vigorous source of international, national, state, and local news and editorial opinions, together with many unforgettable features and human interest stories; and

WHEREAS, from 1876 through February 20, 1998, the Banner in a thorough and definitive manner monitored the pulse of Nashville, its people and its institutions; and

WHEREAS, at one time, the Nashville Banner had the largest circulation of any newspaper in the city; and

WHEREAS, during the course of its 122-year history, the Nashville Banner developed a distinct newsroom culture that was defined, first and foremost, by the people who owned and operated it; and

WHEREAS, under nine decades of ownership and control by the Stahlman family, the Nashville Banner was the vigorous and outspoken clarion of the conservative wing of the Tennessee Democratic Party and for many years, ran the vivid and unforgettable front page editorials of the late James G. Stahlman under the headline "From the Shoulder"; and

WHEREAS, under the ownership of the Stahlmans, the Nashville Banner was a tireless and vigorous advocate for freedom of the press, not only in Tennessee and in the United States, but in all other countries of the world, particularly Central and South America; and

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WHEREAS, under the ownership which succeeded the Stahlmans, the Nashville Banner regularly garnered prizes and awards for excellence as a newspaper; and

WHEREAS, for the last 19 years of its existence, the Nashville Banner was fortunate to have the leadership and astute guidance of co-owners Irby Simpkins and Brownlee Currey, Jr., who maintained the newspaper's journalistic excellence through both good and bad times; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Simpkin's tenure as publisher, the Nashville Banner succeeded in its mission to "inform the electorate," to be a "vehicle of communication between those in power and those who are without" and to be a "newspaper of record with quality writers and quality photographers"; and

WHEREAS, throughout this worthy newspaper's existence, the reporters and editorial staff of the Nashville Banner always acted boldly and spoke earnestly, never losing sight of the fact that they were employed to cover local people and local issues; and

WHEREAS, alumni staff of the Nashville Banner have frequently moved on to run the city, emerging as influential people in business, society and politics; this fact, perhaps more than any other, stands as final testament to the newspaper's great influence on the illustrious history and present prosperity of Nashville and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, for many decades the top of the front page of the Nashville Banner daily called Middle Tennesseans to civic awareness and duty by means of the masthead of the eagle with wings outspread over the words from the song "America":

"Long may our land be bright with freedom's Holy light;

Protect us by Thy might, great God our King."; and

WHEREAS, to many of us who were born and raised in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Banner was as much a part of our families and our daily lives as a relative upon whom we could always depend; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we pause to take note of the demise of our stalwart friend, the Nashville Banner, which is irreplaceable in the lives of many of us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Edward Faucett Jones, who served the Nashville Banner both under the Stahlman family and as editor during the ownership which succeeded the Stahlmans, to Mr. Irby Simpkins, Jr., and to Mr. Brownlee Currey.